



NY1/YNN-Marist Poll

**Majority Supports Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage...**

**63% Want Law to Remain in Place**

\*\*\* Complete Tables for Poll Appended \*\*\*

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**This NY1/YNN-Marist Poll Reports:**

Same-sex marriage has been legal in New York State for just a couple of weeks, but do New York State residents support the law? According to this NY1/YNN-Marist Poll, a majority of adults in New York favor the law, and more than six in ten do not want the legislation to be overturned.

Key findings include:

- 55% of New York State adults support the **legalization of same-sex marriage**. 36% oppose it, and 9% are unsure.
- Similar proportions of **registered voters** share these views. 55% of voters statewide favor same-sex marriage in New York State while 37% are against it. Eight percent are unsure.
  - Looking at **party**, about two-thirds of Democratic voters -- 66% -- support the law. And while a majority of Republican voters -- 52% -- oppose the law, 39% support it. Nearly six in ten non-enrolled voters -- 58% -- applaud the law.
- There are **age** differences. Many New Yorkers under the age of 45 -- 62% -- back the legislation while just half of those 45 and older -- 50% -- say the same.
- When it comes to **the suit filed to overturn the law**, 63% of adults statewide *don't* want the law to be overturned. However, 32% do, and 5% are unsure.
- The same proportions of **registered voters** -- 63%, 32%, and 5%, respectively -- share these views.
  - 72% of **Democratic voters** and 66% of **non-enrolled voters** statewide want the law to remain in effect. **Republican voters** divide. 48% of Republicans think it should be overturned while 47% believe it should stay in place.

- Nearly seven in ten **suburban residents** -- 69% -- and about two-thirds of **those upstate** -- 66% -- don't want the law overturned. 57% of **New York City adults** agree.
- Looking at **age**, 70% of those younger than 45 want the same-sex marriage law in effect while 59% of those 45 and older say the same.

### **Political Impact: Plurality More Likely to Vote for State Senator Who Supported Law**

44% of registered voters in New York report they are more likely to vote for a state senator who voted to pass the same-sex marriage law. Three in ten -- 30% -- are less likely to cast their ballot for such a legislator while nearly one in five -- 19% -- says it makes no difference to their vote. Seven percent are unsure.

While a majority of Democratic voters -- 55% -- and a plurality of non-enrolled voters -- 45% -- think they are more likely to vote for a state senator who supported the same-sex marriage law, a plurality of Republican voters -- 43%-- say such a vote makes them less likely to support that state senator.

There is little difference regionally. 46% of voters in New York City's suburbs, 44% of those in the city, and 41% of upstate voters report they are more likely to vote for a lawmaker who backed the law.

However, age differences exist. A majority of voters younger than 45 years old -- 52% -- report support for the law positively impacts their vote for a state senator while 40% of older voters agree.

### **Most Don't Expect to Attend Same-Sex Wedding But Would Attend If Asked**

Although 79% of New York State residents do not expect to be a guest at the same-sex marriage of a family member or friend in the next year, 70% would attend such a ceremony. Even 34% of adults who oppose the law legalizing same-sex marriage say they would go to the wedding of a gay or lesbian couple.

Key findings include:

- 79% of New York State adults do not **expect to attend a same-sex marriage** in the coming year. 15% do, and 6% are unsure.
- Seven in ten adults -- 70% -- would attend the same-sex marriage of a friend or family member. 71% of registered voters and 67% of Republicans would do the same.

## How the Survey was Conducted

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### **Nature of the Sample: New York State Poll of 600 Adults**

This survey of 600 New York State adults was conducted on July 28<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in New York State were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the state. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each county was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant within  $\pm 4.0$  percentage points. There are 517 registered voters. The sample of registered voters was adjusted for turnout in statewide elections. The results for this subset are statistically significant within  $\pm 4.5$  percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

## Nature of the Sample: Adults

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Nature of the Sample - NYS Adults		
		NYS Adults
		Col %
<b>NYS Adults</b>		<b>100%</b>
<b>Registered Voters</b>		<b>86%</b>
<b>Region</b>	<b>New York City</b>	<b>43%</b>
	<b>Suburbs</b>	<b>21%</b>
	<b>Upstate</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>Less than \$50,000</b>	<b>46%</b>
	<b>\$50,000 or more</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>58%</b>
	<b>African American</b>	<b>13%</b>
	<b>Latino</b>	<b>14%</b>
	<b>Other</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>58%</b>
	<b>Non White</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Generation</b>	<b>Millennials (18-30)</b>	<b>21%</b>
	<b>Gen X (31-46)</b>	<b>24%</b>
	<b>Baby Boomers (47-65)</b>	<b>34%</b>
	<b>Silent-Greatest (Over 65)</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>Under 45</b>	<b>41%</b>
	<b>45 or older</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>48%</b>
	<b>Women</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Interview Type</b>	<b>Landline</b>	<b>79%</b>
	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>21%</b>

**NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Adults: Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2011, N=600 MOE +/- 4%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.**

## Nature of the Sample: Registered Voters

Nature of the Sample - NYS Registered Voters		
		NYS Registered Voters
		Col %
<b>NYS Registered Voters</b>		<b>100%</b>
<b>Party ID</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>50%</b>
	<b>Republican</b>	<b>27%</b>
	<b>Non-enrolled</b>	<b>20%</b>
	<b>Other</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Support Tea Party</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Political Ideology</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>30%</b>
	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>36%</b>
	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Region</b>	<b>New York City</b>	<b>30%</b>
	<b>Suburbs</b>	<b>24%</b>
	<b>Upstate</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>Less than \$50,000</b>	<b>43%</b>
	<b>\$50,000 or more</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>65%</b>
	<b>African American</b>	<b>12%</b>
	<b>Latino</b>	<b>11%</b>
	<b>Other</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>65%</b>
	<b>Non White</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Generation</b>	<b>Millennials (18-30)</b>	<b>16%</b>
	<b>Gen X (31-46)</b>	<b>24%</b>
	<b>Baby Boomers (47-65)</b>	<b>37%</b>
	<b>Silent-Greatest (Over 65)</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>Under 45</b>	<b>36%</b>
	<b>45 or older</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>48%</b>
	<b>Women</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Interview Type</b>	<b>Landline</b>	<b>79%</b>
	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>21%</b>

**NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2011, N=517 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.**

## The Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage in New York State

*Asked of NYS Adults:*

**Question Wording:** As of July 24th, same-sex marriage became legal in New York State. Do you support or oppose the law which allows gay or lesbian couples to legally marry?

		NYS Adults		
		As of July 24th, same-sex marriage became legal in New York State. Do you support or oppose the law which allows gay or lesbian couples to legally marry?		
		Support	Oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>NYS Adults</b>		<b>55%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Region</b>	<b>New York City</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>9%</b>
	<b>Suburbs</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>14%</b>
	<b>Upstate</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>Less than \$50,000</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>8%</b>
	<b>\$50,000 or more</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>Not college graduate</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>9%</b>
	<b>College graduate</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>Under 45</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>7%</b>
	<b>45 or older</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>7%</b>
	<b>Non White</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>11%</b>
	<b>Women</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Interview Type</b>	<b>Landline</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>9%</b>
	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>8%</b>

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Adults: Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2011, N=600 MOE +/- 4%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## The Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage in New York State

*Asked of NYS Registered Voters:*

		NYS Registered Voters		
		As of July 24th, same-sex marriage became legal in New York State. Do you support or oppose the law which allows gay or lesbian couples to legally marry?		
		Support	Oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>NYS Registered Voters</b>		<b>55%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Party Registration</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>6%</b>
	<b>Republican</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>9%</b>
	<b>Non-enrolled</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>3%</b>

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2011, N=517 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## The Reversal of the Law Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage in New York State

*Asked of NYS Adults:*

**Question Wording:** Opponents of New York's same-sex marriage law have filed suit to overturn the law. Which comes closer to your opinion:

		NYS Adults		
		Opponents of New York's same-sex marriage law have filed suit to overturn the law. Which comes closer to your opinion:		
		The law should be overturned to make same sex marriage illegal in New York	The law should remain as it is to keep same sex marriage legal in New York	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>NYS Adults</b>		32%	63%	5%
<b>Same-sex Marriage Law</b>	Support	2%	98%	1%
	Oppose	83%	15%	2%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	37%	57%	6%
	Suburbs	24%	69%	7%
	Upstate	30%	66%	4%
<b>Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	36%	59%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	28%	67%	5%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	36%	59%	5%
	College graduate	26%	69%	5%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	26%	70%	3%
	45 or older	34%	59%	7%
<b>Race</b>	White	28%	67%	5%
	Non White	35%	59%	6%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	26%	66%	8%
	Women	37%	61%	3%
<b>Interview Type</b>	Landline	33%	61%	6%
	Cell Phone	26%	70%	4%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Adults: Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2011, N=600 MOE +/- 4%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## The Reversal of the Law Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage in New York State

*Asked of NYS Registered Voters:*

		NYS Registered Voters		
		Opponents of New York's same-sex marriage law have filed suit to overturn the law. Which comes closer to your opinion:		
		The law should be overturned to make same sex marriage illegal in New York	The law should remain as it is to keep same sex marriage legal in New York	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>NYS Registered Voters</b>		32%	63%	5%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	24%	72%	3%
	Republican	48%	47%	5%
	Non-enrolled	33%	66%	1%
<b>Same-sex Marriage Law</b>	Support	2%	97%	1%
	Oppose	83%	16%	2%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2011, N=517 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## More or Less Likely to Vote for a State Senator Who Supported Same-Sex Marriage Law

*Asked of NYS Registered Voters:*

**Question Wording:** Are you more or less likely to vote for a state senator who voted to pass the same-sex marriage law in New York?

		NYS Registered Voters			
		Are you more or less likely to vote for a state senator who voted to pass the same-sex marriage law in New York?			
		More likely	Less likely	Makes no difference	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>NYS Registered Voters</b>		<b>44%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	55%	21%	19%	5%
	Republican	24%	43%	22%	11%
	Non-enrolled	45%	35%	18%	3%
<b>Same-sex Marriage Law</b>	Support	73%	4%	19%	4%
	Oppose	5%	75%	13%	7%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	44%	31%	17%	7%
	Suburbs	46%	29%	17%	8%
	Upstate	41%	30%	21%	7%
<b>Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	38%	34%	21%	7%
	\$50,000 or more	48%	28%	16%	7%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	42%	33%	18%	7%
	College graduate	48%	25%	20%	7%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	52%	27%	17%	5%
	45 or older	40%	32%	20%	9%
<b>Race</b>	White	48%	27%	20%	5%
	Non White	38%	33%	17%	12%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	43%	29%	21%	8%
	Women	44%	32%	17%	7%
<b>Interview Type</b>	Landline	43%	31%	17%	9%
	Cell Phone	47%	26%	24%	3%

**NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2011, N=517 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.**

## Expect to Attend a Same-Sex Marriage in the Next 12 Months

*Asked of NYS Adults:*

**Question Wording:** Do you expect to attend a same-sex marriage of a friend or family member in the coming year, or not?

		NYS Adults		
		Do you expect to attend a same-sex marriage of a friend or family member in the coming year, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>NYS Adults</b>		15%	79%	6%
<b>Same-sex Marriage Law</b>	Support	22%	71%	6%
	Oppose	6%	93%	1%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	14%	79%	7%
	Suburbs	9%	84%	7%
	Upstate	19%	77%	4%
<b>Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	15%	81%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	17%	77%	5%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	14%	80%	6%
	College graduate	17%	78%	5%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	18%	76%	6%
	45 or older	13%	81%	6%
<b>Race</b>	White	17%	78%	6%
	Non White	12%	81%	7%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	8%	85%	7%
	Women	22%	74%	5%
<b>Interview Type</b>	Landline	15%	79%	6%
	Cell Phone	16%	79%	5%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Adults: Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2011, N=600 MOE +/- 4%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Expect to Attend a Same-Sex Marriage in the Next 12 Months

*Asked of NYS Registered Voters:*

		NYS Registered Voters		
		Do you expect to attend a same-sex marriage of a friend or family member in the coming year, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>NYS Registered Voters</b>		15%	79%	6%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	15%	79%	6%
	Republican	11%	88%	<1%
	Non-enrolled	22%	70%	8%
<b>Same-sex Marriage Law</b>	Support	22%	72%	6%
	Oppose	7%	92%	1%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2011, N=517 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Would Attend a Same-Sex Marriage

*Asked of NYS Adults:*

**Question Wording:** Would you attend a same-sex marriage of a friend or family member, or not?

		NYS Adults		
		Would you attend a same-sex marriage of a friend or family member, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>NYS Adults</b>		<b>70%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Same-sex Marriage Law</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>
	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Region</b>	<b>New York City</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>3%</b>
	<b>Suburbs</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>7%</b>
	<b>Upstate</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>Less than \$50,000</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>3%</b>
	<b>\$50,000 or more</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>Not college graduate</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>3%</b>
	<b>College graduate</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>Under 45</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>1%</b>
	<b>45 or older</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>3%</b>
	<b>Non White</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>6%</b>
	<b>Women</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Interview Type</b>	<b>Landline</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>4%</b>
	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>3%</b>

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Adults: Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2011, N=600 MOE +/- 4%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Would Attend a Same-Sex Marriage

*Asked of NYS Registered Voters:*

		NYS Registered Voters		
		Would you attend a same-sex marriage of a friend or family member, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>NYS Registered Voters</b>		<b>71%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Party Registration</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>3%</b>
	<b>Republican</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>5%</b>
	<b>Non-enrolled</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Same-sex Marriage Law</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>
	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>5%</b>

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2011, N=517 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.